

## AMERICAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCER.

Vol. II.

December 15, 1838.

No. 18.

## ART I.—TUMOUR AT THE BASE OF THE CRANIUM, PRODUCING AMAUROSIS, EXOPHTHALMOS, AND DEATH.

BY S. LITTELL, JR., M. D.,

One of the Surgeons to the Wills Hospital for the Diseases of the Eye.

(Read before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, December 4, 1838.)

J— B—, aged thirty years, by profession a porter, of medium stature and robust frame, applied for admission into the Wills Hospital, in July of the present year. He was afflicted with amaurosis, not wholly complete, for he could still distinguish light from darkness, but there was a certain obtuseness of expression, which seemed to indicate its origin in some serious organic disease; and had it not been for the importunity with which it was urged, his application would probably have been rejected in consequence. He had recently been an inmate of the Pennsylvania Hospital, whence he had been discharged, as he stated, at his own request, that he might seek entrance into an institution founded with more express reference to the diseases of the eye: and I felt reluctant to send him away, so long as any uncertainty remained of the curableness of his complaint. All doubt upon this subject was removed when time was allowed for a more thorough investigation of the case. He complained of severe pain in the two temples and over the head, aggravated towards evening to such a degree as to deprive him of rest during the greater part of the night; a copious secretion from the nasal cavities of an offensive mucus, passing through the posterior nares, was discharged by the mouth; and symptoms of gastric derangement were also present,—the constitution manifestly sympathising with the local affection. Vision first began to be impaired in January, and several physicians had been consulted previous to his admission, the following March, into the Pennsylvania Hospital. He had been once salivated while there, and was now again under the alterative use of mercury. There was no assignable cause for the production of the malady; for though he had been addicted to onanism a year or more before his sight began to fail, this seemed inadequate to explain phenomena which evidently originated in organic mischief. Opium and the abstraction of blood by cupping procured sleep and afforded temporary relief; but had no effect in retarding the progress of the symptoms. The pain was felt over the whole head, but especially in the temporal and occipital regions; he breathed with difficulty through the nostrils; the amaurosis soon became complete, and the eyes unusually prominent. The discharge also grew more profuse, was sometimes mixed with blood, and on two occasions hemorrhage occurred,—in one instance to an alarming extent. All hope of improvement from a longer sojourn in the hospital having been abandoned, he was discharged after a few weeks, and I continued my attendance at his home. The subsequent history of this melancholy case may be related in a very few words. The projection of the eyes steadily increased, the palpebra were gradually everted, and the globes, nearly protruded from their sockets, and surrounded by the red, swollen and infiltrated conjunctiva, exhibited a sad and revolting appearance. The

appetite of the patient, far from being diminished, was morbidly increased; the discharge continued, more puriform in character; a fungous excrescence could be felt in each nostril; but the pain, though still a constant subject of complaint, was happily masked by the attending stupor, from which however he could be readily aroused. For the last six or eight weeks of his existence, he was more or less delirious; his appetite decreased, failed altogether, and he became greatly emaciated as the fatal termination grew nigh. Though generally lying in bed, he was still able to sit up, or even to walk about the house; and what is remarkable, evinced a strong desire or craving for ardent spirits, which he had not been accustomed to use when in health: a symptom occasionally noticed as one of the earliest manifestations of insanity. The unfortunate man, reduced to the lowest degree of human wretchedness, a spectacle harrowing to the feelings of his attendants, and the object of compassion to every beholder, at length became comatose; and, after continuing in that state a few days, expired.

The autopsy, made by candle-light, and under circumstances which precluded a very minute investigation, revealed the following particulars:—The first thing which arrested the attention, on looking at the corpse, was the unusual distance between the inner canthi of the eyes; which, being measured by my friend, Dr. J. Parrish, who kindly assisted in the examination, was found to be two inches and five tenths. On laying aside the calvarium, the vessels of the pia mater were observed to be uncommonly injected; and the cerebrum softened in its anterior lobes, particularly towards their lower portion, but in other respects not deviating from its normal structure. The brain being removed, a firm, irregular tumour was seen projecting from the base of the cranium into the sulcus between the anterior and middle lobes. It appeared to arise from the body of the sphenoid bone, and extended an inch or more in a direction upwards and backwards, pressing upon the optic nerves at their junction, and reaching as far on the right side as the surface of the pars petrosa, to which it was inseparably adherent. In order to obtain a more satisfactory view of its extent and connections, the frontal bone was taken away by sawing across its angular and nasal processes, thereby exposing the cavity of the orbit, and the upper half of the tumour. The ramifications of the morbid production, which was at least equal in size to a small orange, were now observed extending into and occupying the neighbouring cavities, the orbits, sphenoidal and ethmoidal sinuses—and reaching below as far as the inferior turbinated bone. The delicate laminae composing the ethmoid, still further attenuated by absorption, were situated in the centre of the tumour and entirely involved by it; the cribriform plate was absorbed in its posterior margin to a considerable extent, as were likewise the orbital processes of the os frontis; the whole presenting a sharp, jagged, and irregular outline. The frontal sinuses, which were greatly enlarged and prolonged into the orbital processes, were filled with a dark-coloured viscous secretion; on the left side, the thin shell of bone separating the sinus from the cavity of the orbit, had also been removed, leaving between them a communication several lines in diameter. The consistence of the tumour varied in different parts; above, and where it was connected with the petrous portion of the temporal bone, it was firm, semi-cartilaginous, and of a whitish colour; its section exhibiting a strong resemblance to that of a scirrhus mamma; beneath the cribriform plate it was softer, and in several places presented a medullary or encephaloid appearance; while the inferior division, which has been described as projecting into the nostril, was of intermediate density, and not unlike a polypous excrescence.

The structure of the morbid growth left no doubt of its malignant character upon the mind either of Dr. Parrish or myself, but the precise spot in which it originated, is shrouded in greater obscurity; perhaps, however, it would be more consonant with all the facts of the case, to refer it to the sphenoidal or posterior ethmoidal cells.

S. LITTEL, JR.

*Philadelphia, Dec. 6, 1838.*

## ART. II.—LETTER FROM PROFESSOR CALDWELL.

[We see no objection whatever to the insertion of the following correspondence. There is doubtless misconception somewhere, which can be removed only by explanation. It need scarcely be said, from the whole tenor of this journal, that it is not the creature of any school or of any party. A main object with it is to uphold the dignity and respectability of that profession for the promotion of whose best interests it was undertaken. In furtherance of this view, it has been the editor's determination to refuse insertion to every observation that tends to reflect unworthily upon any institution or individual, unless the public conduct of such institution or individual should, in justice, demand animadversion. To this course he will rigidly adhere, as the only one that can prevent unnecessary and derogatory controversy.—*Ed.*]

Louisville, Nov. 13th, 1838.

Dear Sir,—I perceive, by the "American Medical Library and Intelligencer," of November 1st, that the editor of that work speaks of having received a pamphlet of fifteen pages, entitled "Refutation of Charges made by Dr. Caldwell, through the Louisville Journal, against Professor James C. Cross, of Transylvania University."

In justice to you, sir, I take this opportunity of saying, that you have never mentioned Professor Cross in the columns of the Louisville Journal, and never written one word for that paper alluding to him either directly or indirectly.

Yours truly,

GEO. D. PRENTICE,

Senior editor of the Louisville Journal.

DR. CHAS. CALDWELL.

Louisville, November 15th, 1838.

To the Editor of the American Medical Library and Intelligencer.

Sir,—To the above note from the senior editor of the Louisville Journal, I shall only add, that I not only did not *write* the articles in that journal, containing the charges of which Dr. Cross complains in his pamphlet; I did not in *any way*, direct or indirect, *contribute to their production*;—I neither furnished matter, gave counsel, nor expressed a wish in relation to them. The first intimation I had of their existence, or of a design in any one to write them, reached me through the journal, by their appearance in its columns. Nor am I now convinced that I ever even read them, or heard them read. Most assuredly I have not the faintest recollection of the nature or bearing of any one of them. So slight is the interest I take in Dr. Cross, his character, or concerns.

The doctor's "refutation" of the charges, I have never seen. Nor, unless for reasons and from motives to which I am now a stranger, shall I ever consume time in reading a production so utterly groundless in imputation as I know it to be, and so violent and offensive in manner and spirit as I am told it is.

In truth, sir, I wish to make it by this letter distinctly and generally understood, that, for several years past, my resolution and practice have been, to hold with Dr. Cross no shadow of intercourse, direct or indirect. With my reasons for this I shall not at present trouble you or your readers; they are satisfactory to myself; and that is all that the occasion requires.

I need hardly add, that if Dr. Cross possess the slightest sentiment of justice, gentlemanliness, or self-respect, he will make atonement for the outrage committed by his pamphlet. If he refuse this, the public will understand from his delinquency, somewhat better than they do at present, what kind of estimate they should set on his character.





**CASE 2.**—Frances F., a native of Germany, aged 29, large and muscular, entered September 21st. The day previous she was thought to be insane; which was evident on her admission, from her attempting to leap from the window, breaking furniture, &c. Was formerly a catholic, but for a short time lately has attended the meetings of another denomination, where she became greatly excited from the tone and character of the preaching. This was thought to be the cause of her insanity. During the first night (21st), she was singing psalms and praying alternately at the top of her voice. At times she would leap up and down, vociferating at the same time. Menstrual function regular. Arterial system natural and equalised. She continued in this state for about two weeks, sleeping during this period only three or four hours at night. The tincture of opium was given in repeated and large doses whenever she became excited.

Oct 3d she expressed a desire for some employment, which was hailed as a favourable symptom; since then she has continued to improve, and is now entirely well. This case is not entered cured in the summary.

**CASE 3.**—Jane T., æt. 60, has always been considered non compos mentis, since she has been in the house (about two years). She was very loquacious, officious, and exhibited a loose connection of ideas. Sept. 10th she went to the city on a visit, and was taken up by the city watch while wandering about the streets. For seven successive days and nights she slept none,—was constantly singing and talking. She has two scars on her head; in one of them the bone is evidently depressed.

Her condition on the 18th Sept. was as follows:—Expression rather wild; pupils contracted; conjunctiva slightly injected; no vomiting; head cool; pulse rather frequent; insomnia continues. Two grains of opium were given every hour until sleep was produced. No hallucination of the senses. Thinks she is omnipotent, possesses unbounded wealth, and can create or destroy at pleasure. She beat the wall with her hands for several days, invoking devils, which she called her work. Her bowels were costive, and could be moved only by drastic cathartics; this might be owing to the opium which was given to keep her quiet.

Oct. 12th.—Still entertains the same extravagant ideas; her physical condition is so much improved that she is permitted to walk about. Her mind on the whole is much improved.

**CASE 4.**—M. H., æt. 32, remained in the hospital only one day. Was seen to leap into the Schuylkill in a fit of insanity by a boatman, who rescued her. Was pregnant, and advanced to the full period.

The insanity would seem to have been caused by an incautious expression used by a physician, viz. "that something was wrong;" after which she became very much depressed: this was two weeks previous to the attempt at suicide. Notwithstanding every remonstrance, she was removed by her friends from the hospital; two weeks after this time, she was delivered of twins, one of them living. She was again sent to the hospital, labouring under confirmed insanity.

*Monomania, religious.*—Both these cases are of many years' duration.

*Melancholia (suicidal propensity).*—One of these cases will be reported separately hereafter.

The case of meningitis will also be reported separately.

*Epilepsy.*—Both of these cases will be given hereafter, inasmuch as they are adapted to illustrate the power of narcotics in suspending the paroxysms.

*Mania à Potu.*—These cases will be given hereafter. Several of them are interesting; one illustrating the Stahlian method of cure by expectation, and another the use of animal magnetism as a therapeutic agent.

*Typhoid Fever.*—This patient was a coloured girl; the case, as frequently happens, was very protracted. The *taches roses*, or "rose-coloured spots," of course could not be demonstrated; but all the other signs of what has been termed *dothinerteritis* were well marked,—the expression of countenance, diarrhœa, meteorism, &c. &c.

## ART. IV.—SUPPOSED CASE OF AN EEL IN THE STOMACH.

BY JAMES GEDDES, JR., M. D., OF BARRINGTON, NOVA SCOTIA.

[We know not what reply to give to our correspondent. That living bodies are capable of existing in the stomach and intestines of animals is undoubted; intestinal worms, as well as the young of the hair-worm (*gordius*), the leech, the eggs of the gad-fly, &c., received from without, are known to become developed in animals, and to give rise to morbid phenomena in the digestive tube and elsewhere; but we confess the evidence in the following case appears to us apocryphal, and the conclusion, that the animal in question had existed in the stomach for so long a time, in the highest degree *improbable*, we would not say *impossible*.—*Ed.*]

Barrington, Nova Scotia, October 22d, 1838.

Dear Sir,—As you are curious in every thing connected with physiological disputations, I take the liberty of relating a circumstance which lately occurred in a neighbouring town, and do so more particularly to elicit your opinion, as the medical men and others of the place are somewhat divided in their judgment concerning it.

A lad, ætat. 18, had been for four years subject to fits (the kind I do not know), occurring every month or two; had been under the care of several practitioners. About three months ago was taken ill as usual, and felt sick and qualmish, his mother administered some *lac assafœtidæ*; he soon after vomited, and on examining the contents on her return to his bed-room found he had ejected an eel. He continued for a day or two in a state of insensibility, and on recovering remembered that four years ago he had a consciousness of swallowing something while drinking out of a brook by the road-side, not far from the harbour. Many persons called to see it. It had, I am told, all the appearance of the common eel; measured fourteen and a half inches in length and one and a half in circumference. Many persons gave credence to the statement, others disbelieved it altogether. Among others, a medical gentleman called, having a jar in readiness; he removed the contents of the stomach and intestines; on arriving at his house he examined them in the presence of his father, also a medical practitioner, and found what was evidently *gravel*, *eel grass*, and *sand flies*. This has been stoutly contradicted by the family, who assert that he vomited the eel, although no person was present at the time; and they explain the contents as follows, viz.

- 1st. That he partook of leeks the day preceding.
- 2d. That he drank freely of molasses and water.
- 3d. That the sugar was sandy which was put in his tea.
- 4th. That he is now in good health—free from fits; which has not been the case the four former years.

The above is a very brief and imperfect outline of the case, but I trust sufficient for you to form an opinion whether an eel could remain for such a length of time within the human stomach and resist its solvent powers. And if so, how?

I shall feel honoured by having your opinion at your leisure. You may easily suppose in a country town that arguments are not wanting to support either opinion.

I have the honour to be

Yours very truly,

JAMES GEDDES, JR.

Professor Dunglison.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Professor Pattison's Introductory Lecture.<sup>1</sup>*

This discourse signally exhibits the intellectual energy of its able author. After describing the progress and prosperity of the institution to which he is attached, and of which he is a distinguished support, he illustrates the important influence "which anatomical knowledge exercises in securing for those who assiduously cultivate it, public confidence and professional distinction," by holding up to the admiration, emulation, and imitation of his students, a brief history of the lives and characters of two of the most illustrious benefactors of medical and chirurgical science,—“men who have been emphatically named—the FATHER OF BRITISH and the FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY.”

We regret that our limits will not permit the introduction of the accurate portraiture of John Hunter; but we cannot exclude the following sketch—as liberal as it is just—of the illustrious American surgeon.

“As it is not my intention,” says the author, “to become Dr. Physick’s biographer, but merely to offer for your example a sketch of his character, I shall not attempt a detailed account of his early life and the course he pursued in his medical studies. Having finished his studies in Philadelphia, he was placed as a pupil under John Hunter; and he appears to have followed, as his model, his illustrious master. We are informed by the able Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, in a necrological notice of Dr. Physick read by him before the Philosophical Society, that when Dr. Physick became a pupil of Hunter, his preceptor led him into his dissecting room, and pointing to some dead bodies, said, “These are the books the student will learn under my direction.” They were books read most studiously by Dr. Physick during the term of his pupilage; and from the zeal and devotion with which he cultivated anatomical studies, he became one of the most distinguished and favourite pupils of Mr. Hunter. Educated under such a master, and actuated like him with an ardent devotion to anatomical pursuits, he became, during his residence with Mr. Hunter, a profound anatomist. And it was here that he laid the foundation of his future eminence and distinction.

“To attempt any thing like a detailed account of the discoveries made, and of the improvements introduced into surgery by Dr. Physick, would be impossible on the present occasion. Instead of occupying a lecture, it would require a long series of lectures to detail them; and as I confined myself, in the sketch which I have presented to you of the life and character of “THE FATHER OF BRITISH SURGERY,” to a history of one of his many improvements in chirurgical science, I shall follow the same course in the exhibition of the portrait of his illustrious compeer.

“The improvements which Dr. Physick introduced into surgery are so numerous, that it is exceedingly difficult to make a selection. Indeed, they are all of them so important, that it requires much consideration to say which of them has exercised the greatest influence in advancing and elevating our science. The one I select is his improvement in the treatment of the *Artificial Anus*; and I hesitate not to assert that there is not to be found in the whole circle of the science any single discovery which indicates higher power of philosophical induction than the one under consideration. It was no random, no chance discovery. It was not, and it could not have

<sup>1</sup> Jefferson Medical College. Professor Pattison's Introductory Lecture, session 1838-9. 8vo, pp. 19. Philadelphia, 1838.

been made by accident. It was based on anatomical knowledge, and perfected by inductions derived from her handmaids, physiology and pathology.

"To those who are acquainted with the nature of the *Artificial Anus*, it is unnecessary for me to state, that of all the miseries entailed on mankind by the opening of Pandora's box, there is not one of them which, in loathsomeness and suffering, equals the disease under consideration. Even Hope, until the discovery of Dr. Physick, was unable to offer to the wretched being thus afflicted a single ray of consolation. His case was one of hopeless unmitigated misery. The genius of 'THE FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY' has triumphed even in this disease, which, up to his time, was looked to as a case of irremediable calamity; and the chain of reasoning which enabled him to accomplish this glorious achievement is so beautiful, and so truly philosophical, that I must be pardoned in shortly detailing it.

"The *Artificial Anus* is produced by the protrusion of a portion of the intestine through the abdominal wall, and by the removal, by mortification or any other cause, of the loop of the gut which has protruded. From the continuous channel of the intestine being thus destroyed, its feculent contents can no longer follow their natural course, but must be discharged at the artificial opening; and as there is no sphincter muscle to retain them, and to allow only of their occasional discharge, the feces ooze constantly from the wound, rendering the patient loathsome to himself, and disgusting to every one, even to his nearest and dearest relations. Although it is only from the upper portion of the intestine that the discharge takes place, both portions protrude from the external wound, and bear the same relation to each other as that which exists between the barrels of a double-barreled gun. Now this being their position, the following is the chain of reasoning which led Dr. Physick to his mode of treatment for the cure of this most loathsome disease. The outer coat of the gut is formed by the peritoneum, a serous membrane; and, as the two portions lie side by side, like the barrels of the gun, the surfaces in contact are serous surfaces. The interior of the intestines is lined by mucous membranes. We have, therefore, serous membranes exteriorly, and mucous membranes placed interiorly. The results of the inflammation of these two membranes are very different. In the inflammation of the serous membranes we have coagulable lymph secreted, and the inflamed serous surface is glued, as it were, to the surface with which it lies in contact. But in the inflammation of the mucous membrane we have, as a consequence, ulceration. Now, from the relations of the two portions of the intestines lying side by side, and from the phenomena attendant on their inflammation, if we produce a higher degree of inflammatory action on the sides of the gut as they are placed in contact, the following results must of necessity take place. The inflammation of the outer surfaces being attended with the effusion of coagulable lymph, the sides of the gut will be completely and inseparably united: and when this glueing together of the surfaces has been accomplished, the ulceration attendant on the inflammation of the mucous surfaces opens a direct lateral communication between the two portions of the intestine through which the descending feces can pass more freely than through the external wound; and thus entering the lower portion, they are permitted to follow their natural course; and the external wound, no longer kept open by the discharges, closes, and the patient is cured. It is unnecessary, on the present occasion, to describe the operation performed by Dr. Physick for the accomplishment of his object; it is only necessary to state that it was completely successful.

"This was, in truth, a glorious discovery; and does it not, I would ask, forcibly and irresistibly confirm and corroborate the lesson I am now desirous to inculcate—the value of anatomical knowledge? Had Dr. Physick not devoted his days and his nights to the dissecting room, would he have ever been qualified to confer so rich a boon on suffering humanity, or have raised up for his own fame so imperishable a monument?

"As an operator, I have never known Dr. Physick surpassed, and I have



been personally and intimately acquainted with most of the distinguished surgeons of modern times. He entered on the performance of his operations with calmness and deliberation, with his mind so prepared for every untoward event which might occur, that it was impossible for him to lose his self-possession. He felt and sympathised with the suffering and the pain he was compelled to inflict, and, in the hour of his patient's agony, he would soothe him by the kindest, the gentlest, the most affectionate assurances of his safety. O! how different from the conduct of some men who would arrogate to themselves the name of surgeons!—men whose minds are absolutely brutalised—who feel no sympathy with their patients, and who, when their victims lie before them writhing in agony, and compelled to give utterance to their sufferings, instead of soothing, will answer them with curses and imprecations. Such men are unworthy of the name of surgeons. The curse of Cain should be branded on their foreheads, and they should be banished forever, not only from their profession, but from the society of the good and the virtuous.

“Eminent as Dr. Physick was as an operator, he still held this, the most showy part of surgery, in the lowest estimation. We are told by the biographer of Hunter, that that distinguished surgeon was in the habit of saying, ‘To perform an operation is to mutilate a patient we cannot cure; it should therefore be considered as an acknowledgment of the imperfection of our art.’ His pupil entertained precisely similar sentiments; and I recollect perfectly that he, in conversing with me on the subject, shortly after my arrival in this country, used nearly the same expressions, telling me that he considered a surgical operation as an opprobrium to the science, and that he believed that when the science was perfected, surgical operations would seldom be required. How zealously and how faithfully did he labour to bring about this most desirable consummation, is known to every one at all conversant with the history of modern surgery. Hundreds, aye, I may say thousands, have been saved from amputation, from the improved system of treatment which he introduced into practice for the cure of diseased joints; and his improvements in the other departments of surgical treatment have, in an astonishing degree, diminished the necessity for the performance of surgical operations.

“In his intercourse with his brethren, Dr. Physick was most manly and most liberal. He stated with candour his own sentiments, and listened with deference to the opinions of others, and allowed them their full value. Standing, as he did, on a pinnacle which was unapproached and unapproachable, he was more modest and less self-opinionated than many a junior surgeon. In consultation, how delicately did he dissent to the system previously pursued! how clearly by his reasonings did he satisfy those with whom he consulted as to the correctness of his views, and the justness of the alterations in the treatment which he suggested! and how sedulously did he conceal from the friends of the patient that there had existed between him and their family physician any difference of opinion!

“The person of Dr. Physick was strongly indicative of his character. No man who was ever in his company could ever again forget his presence. His figure was rather under than over the common height; it was slight, but, on the whole, graceful. It was, however, on the ‘temple of the soul,’ in his noble head, where the strong delineation of his character was portrayed by nature’s chisel. His broad expanded forehead, his acuteline nose, his compressed lips, and his round Grecian-formed chin, appeared, from the pallid hue of his countenance, sculpted in cold Parian marble; but the eye, full of thought, pensive, mild, and penetrating, shed the influences of life, energy, and feeling, over a countenance otherwise deathlike. For many years himself the victim of disease and suffering, and, from the nature of his pursuits, brought into hourly association in the chambers of death with scenes the most heart-rending to which our nature is subject; the subduing influences of melancholy had a saddening effect on the expression of his

countenance and the tone of his character. But, although little given to cheerfulness, there was nothing of misanthropy or severity in his disposition. On the contrary it was full of gentleness and tenderness. A sufferer himself, he sympathised most deeply, most sincerely with the sufferer, and devoted his whole life and the whole energies of his mind to the mitigation of the pains and miseries of mortality.

"But I must pause: my time will permit me no longer to eulogise the character of an individual so loved, so admired, and so cherished during his life—and so deeply, so sincerely regretted and deplored on his death.

"Dr. Physick requires no eulogist to publish his fame and to sound forth his praises; and, like the 'FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY,' he requires no splendid mausoleum to perpetuate his memory. Washington—the immortal Washington—having won for his countrymen the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty, shall live in the hearts and affections of Americans until the last trumpet shall sound, and the angel declare that 'TIME is at an end. And as long as medical and chirurgical science is cultivated in these United States, be it through one thousand or ten thousand generations of our race, so long shall the memory of Physick be held in grateful reverence by the profession.

"My young friends, I would now, in conclusion, counsel you to select the character of this illustrious individual as a model for your imitation. It is true it is a lofty one; but, as I told you already this evening, you cannot fix your standard for virtuous emulation and distinction too high. I have no doubt that the departed Physick, on entering on his profession, selected as his model his illustrious preceptor, the 'FATHER OF BRITISH SURGERY;' and, as a consequence of the zeal and ardour with which he pursued his object, he has earned for himself a title not less noble, not less dignified than that of his great exemplar. He has been, and will continue for ever to be named, 'THE FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY.'"

#### *Professor N. R. Smith's Introductory Lecture.<sup>1</sup>*

The able author of this letter has transferred his labours to another field, and one where we doubt not his talents and acquirements will be appreciated as they merit. He has been borne on the tide of enterprise, and of useful enterprise, to the "broad regions of the west;" and where—we would ask with him—"can science hope for a richer harvest, or philanthropy a wider field for the exercise of a beneficent art, than where nations may be said to be born in a day, and where they come at once into existence with all those relations of society which give exercise to every useful branch of knowledge and art?"—p. 5.

For three years we had the pleasure of being associated in the same institution—the University of Maryland—with Professor Smith; and during that time the sentiments we were led to form of him were of a high order.

The address exhibits the character of the author's mind, and is an index of the valuable course which we doubt not he will be prepared to deliver. It alludes in the following feeling and appropriate manner to the loss which the University of Transylvania had experienced in the death of the author's predecessor, Professor Eberle.

"In the chair of the practice of medicine, I have the honour, and in one

<sup>1</sup> An Address Introductory to a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. By N. R. Smith, M. D., (of Baltimore,) Professor in Transylvania University. Published at the request of the medical class. 18mo, pp. 24. Lexington, Ky., 1838.

sense the misfortune, to succeed one, the space of whose reputation the authorities of this university could scarcely hope again to fill. Perhaps no individual among us, with one honoured exception, has ever acquired a more enviable reputation as a medical author than the late Prof. Eberle, and few have excelled him in the duties of a public teacher. No man can more truly be said to have been the architect of his own fair fame and fortunes, than my lamented predecessor. To no happy contingency, which often developes genius that might otherwise have slumbered; to no fostering patronage, which often nourishes and sustains it under adverse circumstances, can we ascribe his early progress to professional distinction: The very nucleus of his reputation, the formation of which indeed is the most difficult part of the labour of ambition, was the result of his own indefatigable toil. Nor did his too sensitive modesty permit him to owe any thing to those popular blandishments of manner, so influential in winning 'golden opinion from all sorts of men'—

“ ‘ Along the cool sequestered vale of life,  
He kept the noiseless tenor of his way.’ ”

His fame was given to the world through the medium of his professional brethren, an avenue to distinction which I trust will ever be chiefly sought by those whom I have the honour to address.

“ Were I asked what were the characteristic traits of mind which rendered our departed brother thus distinguished and useful, I should answer,—‘a capability of intellectual exertion, capacity for knowledge, and judgment in its arrangement and application.’ Although these qualities of the understanding (and I say it, gentlemen of the medical class, for your encouragement,) are not uncommon; yet, when combined with industry, they often win for their possessor the highest honours that are sought by a virtuous ambition. They do not, it is true, furnish the inspirations of the poet, or give birth to those productions which are the proper offspring of creative fancy; but they have achieved the triumphs of philosophy. To them do the sciences owe their existence, and by them have the vast store-houses of knowledge been replenished. These indeed are the attributes of the mind which have rendered immortal the labours of Newton, of Franklin, and of Laplace.

“ Prof. Eberle was too early lost to this community to justify the supposition that his moral worth and social qualities could have been fully appreciated by those whom I have the honour to address. A few days of physical suffering and mental languor were all that he spent among you. He came indeed but to die among strangers, by strangers to be honoured, and by strangers mourned,—strangers, however, only to his person and to his private worth. As Americans, his public reputation was abundantly dear to you, and deep was the sympathy, kind and soothing the attentions which in this community were bestowed upon him and upon his afflicted family.

“ I had the happiness and the honour to be associated with Prof. Eberle in scientific pursuits, when his public career as a teacher of medicine first commenced, and perhaps no one of my auditors can, more justly than myself, appreciate the magnitude of your loss. The ties by which he then became endeared to those around him, were those which result from the exercise of sound and correct principles, and from amiable and generous sentiments. They were ties which neither time nor distance dissolves, and which terminate only with our existence.

“ It has been said that death ever loves a shining and an elevated mark, and that his arrows often select those whose virtues and usefulness distinguish them above their fellow men; but doubly obnoxious to the enemy of our race was he whose worth I would commemorate. A thousand times had his science and philanthropy provoked the vengeance of the fell destroyer, by repelling from the hearts of others the weapons of death, till at length, with vindictive force and fatal precision, they have been turned upon his own bosom.

"Neither 'storied urn, nor animated bust' is necessary to transmit the name of Eberle to after generations. The page of science, on which is emblazoned the name of the useful and distinguished author, lives till monuments of bronze and statues of marble have crumbled into dust. But however deep the melancholy interest which is felt in the subject which has thus far occupied our attention, it becomes me to remember, that while I stand here feebly to do justice to the memory of my departed friend, to me also it belongs to enter upon those labours which by him, had health and life permitted, would have been so ably and so faithfully performed."

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*Esquirol<sup>1</sup> and Ellis on Insanity.<sup>2</sup>*

The authors of the works before us are well known to all who have attended to the subject of insanity; and who is there that has not? The reputation of Esquirol has extended every where. His whole life has, indeed, been spent in the observation of mental disease; and the present volumes comprise some of the valuable results of such observation. They are divided into "Memoirs on Madness and its Varieties;" "Statistical and Hygienic Memoirs on Madness;" and "Memoirs on Mental Alienation, considered in its medico-legal relations;"—several of which were published years ago. The plates are chiefly designed to represent some striking physiognomies of this deplorable condition.

Sir W. C. Ellis is not as extensively known as M. Esquirol, but is widely and deservedly respected. His life, too, has been chiefly devoted to the study and treatment of insanity; and his work is peculiarly interesting to us at this time, when endeavours are made to establish among us pauper lunatic asylums, similar to the admirable one at Hanwell, of which he is the zealous and enlightened superintendent.<sup>3</sup> As a work on insanity we do not know that his volume presents any new or striking views; but it cannot fail to suggest many interesting considerations to the reflecting practitioner and philanthropist.

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*The Medical Missionary Society in China.<sup>4</sup>*—This is one of those institutions suggested by the philanthropy of foreigners to benefit a community in many respects most benighted, and yet who regard all—excepting perhaps *Medicinners* of other countries—as far beneath them in every intellectual and moral attribute.

We cannot better state some of the objects of this institution than by making the following extracts from the published address, drawn up by a committee, the estimable chairman of which—T. R. Colledge, Esq.—a

<sup>1</sup> *Des Maladies Mentales considérées sous les rapports médical, hygiénique et médico-légal*, par E. Esquirol, Médecin en chef de la Maison Royale des Aliénés de Charenton, Ancien Inspecteur-général de l'Université, Membre de l'Académie Royale de Médecine, &c. Accompagnées de 27 planches gravées. 8vo, tom. 2, pp. 678, 866. Paris, 1838.

<sup>2</sup> *A Treatise on the Nature, Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment of Insanity, with practical observations on Lunatic Asylums, and a description of the Pauper Lunatic Asylum for the County of Middlesex, at Hanwell, with a detailed account of its management.* By Sir W. C. Ellis, M. D. Resident Medical Superintendent and formerly of the Asylum at Wakefield. 8vo, pp. 344. London, 1839.

<sup>3</sup> A most respectable meeting has been recently held, for this purpose, in Philadelphia.—*Ed.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Medical Missionary Society in China.* Address, with Minutes of Proceedings. 8vo, pp. 29. Canton, China, 1838.



surgeon in the British service, and the president of the society, is now among us.

"The object of this society is, as stated in the resolutions passed at its formation, to encourage the practice of medicine among the Chinese, to extend to them some of those benefits which science, patient investigation, and the ever-kindling light of discovery, have conferred upon ourselves.

"In the midst of many improvements, and surrounded by numerous social advantages, the Chinese are nevertheless deficient in medicine and surgery, and acknowledge this deficiency by their conduct, whenever they can avail themselves of the well-directed skill and the superior adroitness of foreigners. The love of ease and the hopes of health lead mankind to accept assistance wherever they can find it, to forego their prejudices, and sometimes to make large sacrifices, even upon a very slender prospect of recovery. The Chinese, though exclusive in all their policy, form no exception to this rule, for they have come in crowds to the ophthalmic institutions, submitting to operations and medical treatment with unbounded confidence, and obtaining health and restoration through the means of the physician, with every mark of the most unfeigned respect and thankfulness.

"For the agents by whom we are to carry our object into execution, we must look to the missionary boards and committees in Great Britain and the United States. They have it in their power to help us, and are best qualified to select men that are fitted to execute our designs. We do not engage to support such individuals, and therefore shall leave them free to cherish all the better feelings of an honourable independence. We offer them hospitals, with every other necessary and suitable accommodation, and means of effecting good. In these hospitals we require for the patients the same uniform and well-considered attention, which are enjoyed in institutions of a similar kind at home. Men of eminent qualifications and tried character are indispensable for the successful prosecution of the work. For after the society has done all it can do, by way of preparation, its direct influence on the Chinese is to be exerted through the agents it employs; on them, therefore, the destinies of the society are suspended. If they fail, it fails. Their success is its success. They are to give effect to the wishes of the society and its friends. Too much care cannot be bestowed on their selection. Both in character and in practice they should be every way good men. The constitution of the society has been framed so as to guard—as far as it is in its power to guard—this point.

"By the employment of such an agency the way will be paved to a higher place in the confidence and esteem of the Chinese, which will tend to put our commerce and all our intercourse with this nation upon a more desirable footing, and to open avenues for the introduction of those sciences and that religion, to which we owe our greatness, by which we are enabled to act a useful part in this life, and which fit us for the enjoyment of a better life hereafter. And it will not be denied, that these form desiderata of no ordinary interest and importance.

"There are other advantages, which, though, they be of a subordinate kind, are not without their value. Among the first we would refer to the benefits which are likely to result to medical science by cultivating it in China. Countries are not less characterised by the form and nature of the soil and its productions, than they are by the prevalence of certain maladies and a partial or complete exemption from others. The contemplation of disease as influenced by the position and height of a country, its inland or maritime location, and the general habits of the people, conducts the student to a most engaging range of medical philosophy, while it discloses many important lessons to assist him in the way of benefiting his fellow creatures. The advantages derivable from such a contemplation have been acknowledged at all periods, and in all quarters. To secure these advantages, it is required, that a book should be kept in all the institutions connected with

this society, into which an entry will be made of all important cases, with a notice, not only of the disease and the treatment pursued, but also of the province, habits, and other circumstances bearing upon the history of each individual. Such books will in time be curious and instructive documents, and such as will enable us to glance at the penetralia of domestic and social life in China, which we now can only read of, or view at a distance, from the very outskirts of the country."

The enterprise merits the good wishes and assistance of every one who is interested in the cause of humanity, and is able to advance it out of his abundance.

The agent in this city is Richard Alsop, Esq.

*Philadelphia Hospital (Blockley).*—Dr. Edward Peace, of this city, has been recently appointed one of the surgeons to this noble institution, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the absence of Dr. Harlan in Europe. Dr. Peace is both by nature and education well fitted for the responsible situation.

*Vaccine Matter fresh from the Cow.*—The supply of this virus, which was received by us has proved inadequate for any extensive dissemination. In the arms which we have seen, the vesicle has gone on beautifully until the eighth day, but on the ninth it has become sunken; and the areola has not been as regularly defined as in the cases originally depicted by Jenner, and in those which we are in the habit of seeing; but the attending indisposition on the eighth day is marked. Although the character of the disease varies in these respects, we have little doubt that it will afford the due protection, for it is altogether unlike the spurious forms described by Jenner and others. Still, the matter remains to be tested; and to accomplish this satisfactorily, we have written to Bristol for a further supply, which will doubtless be forwarded to us by the earliest opportunity.

It is to be expected that the characters of the vaccinia will vary somewhat from those induced by virus which has passed, as it were, through thousands of individuals.

*Metallic Magnetism as a Preventive of Miscarriage.* By DR. BICKING, of Mülhausen.<sup>1</sup>—A strong woman, 28 years of age, without tendency to disease, had miscarried twice at the sixth month. The first time she had gone on well up to a certain moment, when she suddenly felt something crash in her abdomen. Some days after abortion followed, and she lost much blood, but recovered rapidly. The second time she was suffering under deep depression from the death of a sister. Dr. B. saw her; the pains were severe, and the hemorrhage difficult to restrain, but no other important consequence followed. When she had reached the third month of her third pregnancy, Dr. B. determined to test the efficacy of a powerful magnet, as a means of averting the recurrence of a similar accident. He took a horse-shoe magnet with straight legs, six inches long, one half inch broad, and two lines thick, sewed it to a piece of linen provided with appropriate straps, and fixed it upon the bare skin in the umbilical region, so that it lay obliquely, its south pole directed downward, its north upward. In this manner it was worn regularly at night by the patient, lying on her back, the head of the bed being directed northwards. The woman had reached her

<sup>1</sup> Hufeland's J. d. pract. Heilk. Jan. 1838.

fifth month when her father became sick, and a month after died. She found herself unwell; had pains in the abdomen and profuse leucorrhœa; but miscarriage did not follow. Two months afterwards she brought a child into the world, which, though premature by some weeks, lived. The author is disposed to attribute this fortunate result to his peculiar manner of arranging the poles of the magnet, but suggests this as a point deserving of farther investigation!

*Application of Chloride of Lime in Solution to an Ill-conditioned Ulcer.* By DR. WIRTH, of Zürich.<sup>1</sup>—The patient was a pupil of the veterinary school, who, in dissecting a horse that had died of glanders, wounded his finger. A few days after the finger swelled, and became red and painful. At the seat of the injury there formed a small bad-looking ulcer, which secreted only a little sanies. Fomentations of cold water, and then of Goulard's lotion, did not prevent the inflammation from extending, finally involving the whole hand, and affecting the lymphatic vessels and glands of the arm. On applying a solution of the chloride of lime in water, as a fomentation to the part, the pain, swelling, and redness of the hand abated, the glandular tumour vanished, and a cure rapidly followed.

*Prompt Operation of Cold Water taken Internally.* By DR. GUENTHER, of Cologne.<sup>2</sup>—A man advanced in years, of sound constitution, suffered frequently from catarrhal affections of the trachea and bronchi, preceded usually by coryza. The attacks would continue for weeks or even months, during which time his nights especially were disturbed, and often rendered sleepless. One cold night in January, a few days from the commencement of an attack, the patient was still without sleep two hours after midnight, and annoyed by constant cough, which had refused to yield to one quarter of a grain of acet. morphinæ. Recollecting to have heard of the virtues of cold water at the outset of a catarrh, he rose and swallowed a large glass of this liquid, of a temperature approaching that of ice. On returning to bed, he found the cough and the burning sensation about the fauces gradually diminish; sleep soon followed, and the threatened attack was averted.

*Epistaxis cured by Antimony.* By DR. JAEGER, of Neuss.<sup>3</sup>—In a case of nose-bleed, in a girl 24 years of age, where the usual remedies had failed, Dr. J. gave the tartrate of antimony, to the extent of two grains, in solution, so as to produce nausea and retching, but not vomiting. The face became pale, its fulness disappeared, and the hemorrhage ceased. The strength of the solution was now increased, and its use continued, copious dejections followed, then sweat, and the next day the girl returned to her previous occupations.

*Fortunate Cure of Chorea and Tetanus.* By DR. SCHLEGEL, of Meiningen.<sup>4</sup> [This case is authenticated by the name of the author, and appears in a most respectable journal; but it is—like most of the stories we meet with of living animals in the human stomach and bowels—more characteristic of the credulity than of the judgment and prudence of the narrators.—*Ed.*] A girl, 12 years of age, was suddenly attacked by nervous affection of peculiar character. She would throw herself suddenly down, tear her hair, and sing. At another time she would turn a somerset, throw her hands and feet round in a circle, spring up in the air, and then casting herself on the

<sup>1</sup> Casper's Wochenschr. f. d. ges. Heilk. 1838, No. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Hufeland's J. d. pract. Heilk. Jan, 1838.

<sup>3</sup> Med. Zeit. v. Vereine f. Heilk. in Pr. 1838, Nr. 14.

<sup>4</sup> Allgem. medic. Zeit. No. 45.

ground, first on one hip and then on the other, would beat her head for half an hour together and cry that something was moving in her like a dog or a cat, that something caught her by the heart, was biting, was creeping in her. These attacks were renewed daily, usually in the afternoon. If held fast, she would express great uneasiness and rave worse than before. About a year previous she had drunk water from a brook. Suspecting the presence of some irritant in the intestines, Dr. S. ordered her powders of calomel and jalap, which produced abundant fluid discharges. When he saw her the next day, she lay with closed eyes; and when he lifted the eyelid, the ball moved rapidly from one side to the other. The abdomen swelled up rapidly to the size of a man's head, remained full and round about fifteen minutes, and then subsided; the agony of the patient now increased, she breathed with labour and bit herself in one of her arms. A general tetanus stretched the body at full length and again curved it into a half circle, the head lying over the bedside and touching the floor. She was laid in bed on her back, but the force of the spasm threw her repeatedly from one side of the bed to the other. In about two hours the eyes and face assumed a more quiet expression. The patient laughed and cried alternately, and waking as from a dream, stared wildly about her. A cathartic of senna, with valerian and assafoetida was ordered in divided doses. At the end of eight hours she called for the close stool, and while she there sat, an animal, alive and active, was heard to extricate itself from the rectum and fall into the vessel; presently a second similar report was heard; she rose from the chair, and on the instant two frogs sprang out from under her and instantly disappeared. The child was placed in bed, but still complained of gnawing sensations in her belly, and had severe cramps; these subsided after an hour and she became quiet and slept. On waking she had no recollection of what she had said or done. From this time the attacks became less frequent and severe, at length ceased entirely, and she now enjoys the most perfect health.

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*From the Author.*—An Address, introductory to a Course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. By N. R. Smith, M. D., (of Baltimore,) Professor in Transylvania University. Published at the request of the Medical Class. 18mo, pp. 24. Lexington, Ky., 1838.

*From the Author.*—On the True Value of Experience in Medicine; an introductory lecture delivered at the session of the Louisville Medical Institute for 1838-9. By Henry Miller, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Louisville Medical Institute. 8vo, pp. 21. Louisville, 1838.

Die Physiologie als Erfahrungswissenschaft. Zweiter Band. Bearbeitet von Karl Friedrich Burdach. Mit Beiträgen von Karl Ernst von Baer, Heinrich Rathke, und Ernst H. F. Meyer. Zweite berichtigte und vermehrte Auflage, mit Beiträgen von Heinrich Rathke, Karl Theodor von Siebold und G. Valentin. Mit vier Kupfertafeln. 8vo, s. 845. Leipz. 1837.